



1965

SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the year
1965

Medical Officer of Health: NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector: F. E. CASEMORE, A.I.A.S., M.R.S.H. M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st July, 1966.

To The Chairman and Members,
Shaftesbury Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report
for the year 1965.

The report is prepared and will be circulated
in accordance with the requirements of the Public
Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of the figures
under consideration the vital statistics (page 1)
compare favourably with those for the Country as
a whole.

Apart from measles, which was still prevalent,
there was no serious increase in notifiable dis-
eases.

I am indebted to your Chief Public Health
Inspector, Mr. Casemore, for his co-operation
and help during the year and for his assistance
in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss
J. Shirley for her efficient services during the
year.

I would also like to acknowledge the happy
co-operation and assistance I always obtain from
your Clerk and the other members of your staff.

Finally, may I thank you, Ladies and Gentle-
men, for your courtesy and consideration through-
out the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Leslie Pearson

Medical Officer of Health.



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SHAFTESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 5

A. Area - 42,000 acres
Rateable value: 1st April, 1966 - £272,256
Production of a penny rate: 1965/66 - £1,049 (est)
1966/67 - £1,067 (est)

Vital Statistics

Population(Registrar General's Estimate) - 9,970
Natural Growth of Population (Births
over Deaths) - 38

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female		<u>Comparative Rates</u>	
				(a)Shaftesbury R.D.	(b)England & Wales
Total	72	86	Rate per 1,000		
Illegitimate	2	6	resident pop:		
			= 15.9	18.3	18.1

STILLBIRTHS

Total	Nil	3	Rate per 1,000		
			live & stillbirths		
			= 18.0	18.0	15.7

DEATHS

Total	72	48	Rate per 1,000		
			resident pop:		
			= 12.0	10.1	11.5

Deaths in Infants

Under 1 Year	Nil	3	Infantile death		
Under 1 Week	Nil	Nil	rate per 1,000		
(Illegitimate)	Nil	1	live births		
			= 21.1	21.1	19.7

		<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Cancer of the Lungs		5	5	6	6
" " Other Cancer		20	14	23	21
" " Coronary Disease(Angina)		17	21	25	20
" " Other Heart or Vascular diseases		47	41	55	58
" " Influenza		Nil	Nil	2	Nil
" " Pneumonia		5	1	6	7
" " Motor Vehicle Accidents		5	Nil	1	4
" " All other accidents		4	3	3	4
" " Suicide		Nil	3	1	2
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia		1	1	1	1

B. Nature of the District

The district is mainly rural in character with an urbanized area in Gillingham.

The principal industries of the area are agricultural with associated activities, which include two bacon factories and one slaughterhouse, a cheese factory and a milk processing factory. In addition there are factories dealing in synthetic glue, chemicals and glove making. A brick and tile works and an instrument engineering works are also in the district.

C. Health Services in the District which are not the responsibility of the District Council

The Hospital Service

From the Northern part of the district, patients attend the Westminster Memorial Hospital and the Salisbury Hospitals in the Salisbury Group Management Committee of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board. From the more Southern part of the district patients attend the Blandford Hospital and the Bournemouth and Poole Hospitals of the Bournemouth and East Dorset Group Hospital Management Committee of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board

Laboratory Services

The laboratories at Dorchester and Salisbury of the Public Health Laboratory Service cover your district. The service has again proved, in every way, to be co-operative and efficient.

General Medical Practitioner, Ophthalmic and Pharmaceutical Services

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Council.

County Council Services

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise, the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, immunization and vaccination, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

Domestic Home Help Service

Particular mention must be made regarding the domestic home help service which is of such incalculable benefit to the needy old people, that it is difficult to recall how these people managed before this service was instituted.

But for this service, on which increasing demands are being made, many old people would be unable to survive in their own homes.

Voluntary Services

Acknowledgment must be made of the excellent work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society with regard to the welfare of aged persons, the handicapped and disabled and the chiropody service for old people.

A meals on wheels service for old people is provided by the W.V.S. At the end of the year, thirty persons were availing themselves of this service in the district.

D. Environmental Health Services

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is one half day per week.

Dr. G.B. Hopkins of the Blandford and Wimborne District acts as his deputy during his absence, on a reciprocal basis.

Chief Public Health Inspector (Part time) - F.E. Casemore,
A.I.A.S., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Also Surveyor to the Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector (Full time) - W.E. Breeds,
M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector (Part time) - W.C. Wagg,
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Meat Inspector (Full time) - R.A. Leach, M.A.P.H.I.

Meat Inspector (Full time) - B.R. Marchant, M.R.S.H.,
M.R.I.P.H.H.

Authorised Meat Inspectors (Full time) - C.R. Irish
and D. Sharp - from June, 1965.

Clerical Staff - Three Clerks (Part time)

Until the appointment of the two authorised meat inspectors in June 1965, staff was not available to carry out full meat inspection in the district or routine sanitary and housing inspections.

WATER SUPPLY

Public Supplies

The statutory water undertaking in the district is the West Wilts Water Board. There has been close co-operation between the Board's Officers and your Public Health Officers, copies of reports on samples of water taken by the Board are forwarded to my office and reciprocally, copies of samples taken on your behalf are sent to the Board.

The supplies remained throughout the year, adequate to meet the demand and the purity of the supplies have remained satisfactory.

Eighty five samples of water were taken by the Board during the year and eight by your Inspectors.

Private Supplies

One or two small supplies of doubtful quality supplying few premises, still remain. The Fontmell Magna private supply to thirteen dwellings is chlorinated.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Although preparatory work continued in respect to schemes for Bourton, Motcombe, Fontmell Magna, Stour Provost, East Stour, Kington Magna and Buckhorn Weston, none of these schemes had been commenced by the end of the year.

A regrettable delay in advancement of the Bourton scheme was the difficulty in acquiring a site for the disposal works as a result of the Bourton Milk Factory wishing to come on to the public sewer.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

House Refuse and Salvage

The service for the collection of house refuse has continued as in previous years, providing a weekly service in Gillingham, a fortnightly one in nine parishes and a monthly one in the remainder of the district.

One hundred and three tons of salvage was collected during the year bringing in revenue of £632 compared with £580 during the preceding year.

Cesspool Emptying

The cesspool emptying service (through the agency of a contractor) is carried out in non-sewered parts of the district and has been responsible for a reduction in the number of nuisances.

During the year four hundred and eighteen cesspools or septic tanks were emptied.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION

Until adequate parish sewerage schemes can be provided a gross amount of pollution of streams and ditches in the district cannot be avoided. This type of pollution is present in most parishes.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1964

One temporary Inspector was appointed under the Act. Fifty inspections were carried out during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (Nil figures not given)

	<u>No. of Premises on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	5	2	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	44	14	1
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total -	49	16	1
No. of cases in which defects were -	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	
Want of Cleanliness	1		1
<u>Sanitary Conveniences</u>			
Defective	1		1
No. of Outworkers (Wearing Apparel) -	151		

THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No formal action was called for or taken during the year in respect to any offences against the Act.

PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCE

Complaints continued to be received in the East Orchard district with regard to obnoxious smells from a local Digester Plant.

The nuisance from such a source is intermittent and suitable evidence as to the nuisance is not always available to justify legal proceedings. The nuisance when it occurs is, however, very real. Endeavours are being made to take the necessary action to abate this nuisance which should not be allowed to continue.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT, 1956

No premises in your district are registered under the Act.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one public swimming bath in the district being the Gillingham bath. The efficiency of the chlorination plant and the quality of the water was regularly checked and proved to be satisfactory.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES

Nine sites are licensed under the Caravan Sites Control and Development Act, 1960. The majority of these are for individual caravans for temporary use. Thirty eight inspections were carried out.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

No action was required during the year with regard to such premises.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The only public conveniences provided by the Council are at Town Bridge, Gillingham. Washing facilities (with cold water only) are provided.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The duties of the Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in the North Dorset area and the Beaminster Rural District. Eight hundred inspections were carried out during the year by the rodent operators.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT

There were no complaints received under this Act during the year.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the district are registered or licensed under this Act.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

During the year there was one shop in the district licensed for the keeping and sale of pet animals under the above mentioned Act. Six inspections were carried out during the year.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Two premises in the district are registered under the Act, in respect to which fourteen inspections were carried out.

Under the Act, with certain limited exceptions, any person who carries on a business of providing accommodation for other people's animals, even in a private house, must be registered under this Act, by the District Council.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

Inspections have continued to be carried out and conditions in general have been found to be satisfactory.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47

No action had to be taken during the year, under the above-mentioned Act, for the compulsory removal of any person to hospital or institution for care and attention.

Persons of this category are not unknown. One, is, however, most reluctant to initiate action under this Act unless the welfare of other persons is seriously interfered with. It is rarely in the true interests of the person themselves.

HOUSING

No. of houses in the district 3,414

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year 42

No. of inspections made 98

No. of informal notices served 31

No. of informal notices complied with 26

No. of statutory notices served 1

No. of statutory notices complied with 1

No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958 1

Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses -

Demolition Or Closing Orders made Nil

Undertakings accepted for -

Closure Nil

Reconditioning Nil

Other Action 1

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year Nil

Overcrowding

No cases of 'statutory' overcrowding were found or abated during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings

No houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants

Twenty six applications were received during the year in respect to 'standard' grants and twelve in respect to 'discretionary' grants, compared with twenty seven and fifteen respectively during the preceding year.

New Houses

No new houses were provided by the Council during the year. Forty seven were built by private enterprise.

Twenty nine families were housed during the year by the Council.

At the end of the year there were one hundred and eighty two applicants on the housing list (of which one hundred and thirty one were resident in the district) compared with one hundred and sixty nine at the beginning of the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk

Food & Drugs Act, 1955

No. of 'dealers' subject to licensing by the District Council Nil

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration 4

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration 9

Samples

To avoid duplication of effort, routine milk sampling in the district is only undertaken by the County Council, the results being notified to the Public Health Department. A total of thirty three samples were taken.

The number examined for Brucellosis is not known but two samples were found to be positive to Brucella infection.

Milk & Dairies(General)Regulations, 1959 - Reg. 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Other Food Premises

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, Restaurants, Cafes and boarding houses	<u>26</u>
Canteens - School & Workplace	<u>4</u>
Confectioners	<u>7</u>
Meat and Fish	<u>9</u>
Grocers	<u>6</u>
Mixed Stores	<u>26</u>
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	<u>6</u>
Food Factories	<u>13</u>
Stalls and Mobile Shops	<u>1</u>
Total -	<u>98</u>

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice Cream	<u>47</u>
Sausages & Prepared Meats	<u>12</u>
Fish and Chips	<u>1</u>

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test 24

No. of premises inspected during the year

No. of inspections carried out 93
101

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc) Regulations, 1947 -
1952.

All the ice cream sold, comes into the district pre-packed.

There is no ice cream manufacturer registered in the district.

Byelaws in respect of Handling and Wrapping Food Etc.

Such byelaws are not operative within the district.

Food Inspection

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations,
1963

No. of egg pasteurisation plants in the district Nil

No. of samples of liquid egg submitted for Alpha-Amylase test Nil

Slaughterhouses

Three slaughterhouses (two being connected with bacon factories) are registered in the district.

Until two Authorised Meat Inspectors were appointed in June 1965, a 100% inspection of all carcasses at the three slaughterhouses could not be carried out. Thereafter full inspection was instituted.

To carry out duties in this respect, without some wastage of meat inspectors' time in a small Authority's area is difficult as the amount of slaughtering varies from time to time and year to year, yet it is not practicable for the Council to vary its meat inspectorate staff to suit these variations in demand. The whole time inspectors (to their credit) co-operated with the Council in agreeing to be engaged on other duties when meat inspection duties did not fully occupy their time.

The number of animals killed during the past four years are as under -

Year	<u>Cattle exclud-</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep &</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
	<u>ing Cows</u>			<u>Lambs</u>	
1962	396	885	6,574	6,877	84,191
1963	87	898	5,026	4,668	80,531
1964	63	254	4,157	5,460	98,825
1965	87	199	5,175	4,698	95,065

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned 1965

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	87	199	5175	4698	95065
Number Inspected	87	199	5175	4683	46389
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	18	59	41	481
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	19	92	88	808	4356
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	24.13	55.27	2.82	18.12	10.42
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	2.29
<u>Cysticercosis Only</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Food Hygiene(General)Regulations, 1960

	<u>No. of</u> <u>Prem-</u> <u>ises</u>	<u>No. Comp-</u> <u>lying</u> <u>to Reg.</u> <u>16</u>	<u>No. of</u> <u>Sec.19</u> <u>Prem-</u> <u>ises.</u>	<u>No. Comp-</u> <u>lying</u> <u>to Reg.</u> <u>19</u>
Hotels	3	3	3	3
Cafes	6	6	6	6
Public Houses	18	18	18	18
Clubs	4	2	2	2
Church Halls	4	2	2	2
Canteens - Schools	15	15	3	3
Confectioners	8	8	1	1
Meat and Fish	8	8	8	8
Grocers	7	7	7	7
Mixed Stores	25	25	25	25
Boarding Schools	4	4	4	4
Food Factories	11	11	11	11
Others	<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	<u>118</u>	<u>112</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>93</u>

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	<u>1,091</u>
Total No. of informal notices served	<u>71</u>
Total No. of informal notices complied with	<u>58</u>
Total No. of statutory notices served	<u>1</u>
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	<u>1</u>
No. of prosecutions	<u>1</u>

F. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than tuberculosis -

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases</u> <u>Notified</u>
Measles	193
Pneumonia	1
Paratyphoid B	1

Tuberculosis -

	<u>New Cases Notified</u>
<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
Nil	Nil

Food Poisoning -

There were two cases of food poisoning notified during the year, from food consumed outside your district.

NOEL F. PEARSON
Medical Officer of Health.

